

privileges and influence, have kept their property in a great measure untaxed hitherto. They then remain to be squeezed, and no agent is powerful enough for this but the people. The court must therefore ally itself with the people. But the Notables, consisting mostly of privileged characters, had proposed a method of composing the States, which would have rendered the voice of the people, or *Tiers Etat*, in the States General, inefficient for the purpose of the court. It concurred then with the Patriots in intriguing with the Parliament to get them to pass a vote in favor of the rights of the people. This vote, balancing that of the Notables, has placed the court at liberty to follow its own views, and they have determined that the *Tiers Etat* shall have in the States General as many votes as the clergy and nobles put together. Still a great question remains to be decided, that is, shall the States General vote by orders, or by person ? Precedents are both ways. The clergy will move heaven and earth to obtain suffrage by orders, because that parries the effect of all hitherto done for the people. The people will probably send their deputies expressly instructed to consent to no tax, to no adoption of the public debt, unless the unprivileged part of the nation has a voice equal to that of the privileged; that is to say, unless the voice of the *Tiers Etat* be equalled to that of the clergy and Notables. They will have the young noblesse in general on their side, and the King and the court. Against them will be the ancient nobles and the clergy. So that I hope, upon the whole, that by the time they meet, there will be a majority of the nobles themselves in favor of the

*Tiers Etat.* So far history. We are now come to prophecy; for you will ask, to what will all this lead? I answer, if the States General do not stumble at the threshold on the questions before stated, and which must be decided before they can proceed to business, then they will in their first session easily obtain: i., Their future periodical convocation of the States. 2. Their exclusive right to raise and appropriate money which includes that of establishing a civil list. 3. A participation in legislation; probably at first, it will be a transfer to them of the portion of it now exercised by Parliament, that is to say,